

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 26th July 1902.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

987. The *Indian Mirror* says that its surmise that the next great war of the world will be between England and France over Siam would appear to have not been an idle one. Each day that passes seems to deepen the jealousy between the two countries. It is a mercy that there are sober statesmen and peace-makers both in England and in France—and especially in France. But the tide of circumstances may prove too strong for the most strenuous peace-making swimmers. It almost looks that this will be the case in this Siam business.

INDIAN MIRROR,
24th July 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

988. The following paragraph is taken from the *Bengalee*:—

The Police Commission. We have a profound distrust of all Commissions. They do little or no good. Sometimes they are positively mischievous, as the Universities Commission bids fair to be. We have no reason to believe that the Police Commission will be much better or much worse than have been other Commissions in the past. Mr. Fraser, the President, is a man who is honoured and respected by all who know him. But what can he do? He will be bound by his instructions and will be fettered by the dominating policy of the Government. As to the *personnel* of the Indian members of the Commission, we have to express our sense of disappointment. As the *Indian Mirror* puts it, those who ought to be on the Commission are not there, and those who have been appointed members have not shown any special aptitude for dealing with the problems which will be placed before them. But after all, what can the Indian members do? They will probably write a note of dissent, more or less forcible, which will be read with admiration but which will be carefully ignored.

BENGALÉE,
14th July 1902.

989. Commenting on the Resolution of the Governor-General appointing a Police Commission, the *Indian Nation* says:—

INDIAN NATION,
14th July 1902.

A great honour is to be done to non-official natives of India. Their views are to be ascertained by the Local Committees. At the same time it is declared that the Committees need not record any formal evidence. The views of non-official natives of India, therefore, may not be recorded, may not go before the Commission, or before the Government of India. They will be so summed up as to appear unintelligible and worthless. A Committee, constituted as above, is not likely to attach the slightest value to non-official native opinion. Under the circumstances, the ascertaining of the views of non-official natives will be one more farce that will give an aspect of fairness and catholicity to the proceedings, but will in no way tend to give anything like effect to non-official native opinion.

990. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that section 7 of the Resolution appointing the Police Commission, which directs enquiry into the proper stamp of men to be employed in the police, consistently with the recognized measure of European control in district charges, has created consternation all over the country.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
16th July 1902.

"What," it asks, "may the meaning be of the 'recognized measure of European control in district charges?' Does it mean, as the *Englishman* asks, that the charge of a district should always be in the hands of a European officer or that the District Superintendent of Police should always be a European, or it means both? If it means both, then adieu to all future hopes of the educated men of the country in the matter of entering the higher grades in the Executive department. If it means that the charge of a district should no longer be placed in the hands of an Indian, or that a native of India should not aspire to be at the head of the district police, it is equally a calamity of a stupendous character. Indeed this is the first time that, in a Resolution, the Government has boldly asserted the principle that European control is essential in district charges."

BEHAR TIMES,
18th July 1902.

991. The *Behar Times* expresses its satisfaction at the appointment of a Police Commission and approves of the *personnel* of the Commission. Especially is it pleased with the Maharaja of Darbhanga's appointment.

It remarks that if ever the British Government in India comes to grief, it will be the result of police *zulum*. It therefore hopes that the results of this Commission will be beneficial.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
24th July 1902.

992. Continuing its articles on administrative reform, the *Hindoo Patriot* does not feel encouraged in reading the Government Resolution appointing the Police Commission. First of all the scope allowed to the Commission is not commensurate with the details it is required to report on, and native popular opinion regarding the larger employment of that element to the higher ranks of the police service from the educated classes has not been considered. It is obvious, continues the *Patriot*, that District Superintendents thus recruited would exercise a greater check over their subordinates with whose language and life they are conversant than is now the case under European officers.

As regards the *personnel* of the Commission, the journal regrets that Assam and Burma have not been represented, and suggests the appointment of a native Judge of the High Court and a non-official member for Bombay.

In conclusion, the *Hindoo Patriot* hopes that the appointment of the Commission may result in the introduction of the desired reforms so urgently needed for the better Government of the country.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th July 1902.

993. The following observations on the attitude of the people towards the police are taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—

We said that the Government quarters, at the request of imbecile Magistrates, punitive police forces in tracts which, according to the latter, are in a disturbed state. Now expand the idea—but for disturbed tracts the whole of India—and for the punitive police the entire police force—and you will form an idea of the state of affairs in India. The Government has, as it were, quartered a punitive police force in India at the cost of the people, which, however, unlike other punitive forces, is not to be removed after a fixed period, but is stationed permanently.

The Indians are not the slaves of South Carolina; nor are they like the patriots of Ireland, ceaselessly fighting with their rulers; but are, on the other hand, subjects of His Majesty, who are proverbially gentle, submissive and loyal. Why should they be treated in this cruel manner? What is their offence? How have they deserved this treatment? Why should they have to live in trembling and fear all the days of their lives? Why should they lose all their manliness? What do the authorities gain by adopting methods, which simply emasculate the people?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th July 1902.

994. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* expresses the opinion that it is impossible on the following grounds, for the Government to reform the police:—

- (1) They will not allow of the separation of the executive and judicial functions in the District Magistrate.
- (2) Europeans not being conversant with the manners, customs, instincts and language of the people do not make successful District Superintendents of Police.
- (3) The Government will not utilize Indians in this capacity, because it is not in accordance with their policy to do so.

It suggests the creation of Divisional Police Superintendentships for Europeans who should have charge of several districts, everyone of which should be placed in charge of an Indian Superintendent.

BENGALIAN,
24th July 1902.

995. The *Bengalee* complains that the experience of Mr. T. Palit who laid stress in his evidence in a case in the Police Court upon the insolent behaviour of the mounted policemen, is not unique. Gentlemen of position and respectability have often been subjected to the same treatment at the hands of the police, especially of the mounted corps.

It asks the Commissioner of Police to impress on his men the necessity of being courteous to all.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

996. Echoing the opinion of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, *Power and Guardian* regards the punishment meted out to Mr. Ryan as nominal, as the paper believes that he had not

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
13th July 1902.

The Rajshahi cases. the remotest prospect of promotion for the next six months. In view of these circumstances it is "entitled to say that the Government of Sir John Woodburn is not seen at its best in the Rajshahi cases. If officials are to be treated in this milk-and-water fashion, there can hardly be any doubt that the administration of the country will suffer and get weak and weaker day by day."

997. Commenting on the Rajshahi cases, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the High Court should have stood by Mr. Lee, the Sessions Judge, and not caused his humiliation.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,
18th July 1902.

Ibid. Aggression is the function of the executive and protection the watchword of the judicial. But, alas, the Hon'ble Judges are giving up their privileges, and the former are lording it over the latter!

998. The same paper refers to the action of the District Magistrate of Rajshahi in hurrying on the cases against

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,
22nd July 1902.

Ibid. Shah Johorru Husain and Pochal on the ground that Mr. Ryan's state of health necessitated his immediate departure for England, and sincerely trusts that the Rajshahi scandal having already assumed gigantic proportions, it will not be further increased by allowing Mr. Ryan to leave the country at the critical moment.

999. In the next day's issue, it continues severely to criticise the Magistrate of Rajshahi in his conduct of these cases, remarking that he has been guilty of betraying an

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,
23rd July 1902.

Ibid. excessive amount of feeling in underlining words in sentences in a judicial proceeding. His summoning Joharrul Husain to appear before him at an earlier date than that stated in his own order merely to accommodate Mr. Ryan, is characterized as most arbitrary. As regards the charge of perjury brought against Joharrul Husain, the journal thinks it highly improbable that "a poor native" will "severely" burn himself, implicate a District Superintendent of Police and get an Honorary Magistrate to perjure himself. It accordingly supports Mr. Lee, the Sessions Judge, in his opinion that the allegation is groundless and thinks that such biased conduct on the part of a Magistrate is improper.

1000. Reverting to the case of the two pleaders of Arrah who were sentenced to fifteen months' rigorous imprisonment by the Joint-Magistrate of Arrah and who were refused bail by the Sessions Judge and were in

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA
15th July 1902.

consequence kept in confinement until the High Court ordered their release on bail, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks:—

The Government of Bengal came down upon Mr. Lee and humiliated him because he had meddled with some police-sent-up cases. Nay, the rumour is, there was a talk of degrading him if the High Court could be won over. May we enquire if the same Government is going to move in this matter, though two highly respectable pleaders of Arrah were put to all this trouble by the officials of that district? Surely, the Government cannot have clean forgotten that if its duty is to support its subordinate, its higher duty is to protect the people from the high-handedness of the latter.

1001. The *Indian Empire* comments as follows on the reasons which led the Joint-Magistrate of Arrah to refuse to believe the witnesses cited by the two pleaders, whom he

INDIAN EMPIRE,
22nd July 1902.

Ibid. sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment:—

If this is not excellent fooling we do not know what else can it be. Certainly it cannot be the argument of a sensible man conscious of his responsibility. He would have believed the witnesses if the accused, instead of being respectable men as they are, were men of no substance. So, the only warrant he has of condemning the witnesses as perjurers is in the fact that the accused are respectable members of society. Not even Aristotle could have a more vigorous and convincing power of reasoning than this shining light of Arrah. He has no hesitation from the safe position of a Judicial officer to libel even men of the

position of a Munsif and a Government pleader as perjurers. Such is the training of most of our young Magistrates.

It is needless to add that in appeal this precious judgment has been set aside, the witnesses believed and the accused honourably acquitted.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
22nd July 1902.

1002. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* relates that an accused was charged before the Subdivisional Officer of Patuakhali with embezzling money and was let out on bail. Some days later, the District Magistrate visited the subdivision, read the records of the case and remarked that the man should not have been released on bail. On this, the Subdivisional Officer cancelled his order and the accused was sent to *hajut*, but on appealing to the District Judge, the man was released on bail. So, comments the *Patrika*, according to the District Judge, the Deputy Magistrate was right and the District Magistrate wrong in determining the alleged offence of the accused. And yet for this mistake on the part of the District Magistrate, the poor man had to rot in *hajut* unnecessarily from 9th to 11th July. The matter is surely one which deserves the notice of the Government, more so as the action of the Magistrate is a distinct violation of an express order of the Secretary of State.

Interference by District Magistrates with their subordinates.

(c)—Jails.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
18th July 1902.

1003. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* can only attribute the high death-rate in the Jubbulpore Jail, which, it understands, is endowed with the latest sanitary arrangements, to the abnormally rigorous punishment inflicted on convicts by the "discipline-mad" jail authorities.

The *Patrika* does not doubt that some of them are compassionate; but a keen sense of duty prevails, and whether a man is strong enough or not, he receives the wages of his offence, which, in a large number of cases, result in death.

If the authorities mean to lower the death-rate which is unparalleled in India, they must maintain a more normal standard of punishments.

High death-rate in the Jubbulpore Jail.

(d)—Education.

BENGALIEE,
14th July 1902.

1004. The *Bengalee*, noticing another recommendation of the Universities Commission, viz., the institution of a Final School Examination which students will be required to pass first before being permitted to appear at the Entrance Examination, says that this process of weeding will sensibly diminish the revenue of the University and seriously cripple its financial resources. With the raising of the college fees, the abolition of the unaided colleges, the closing of the 2nd grade colleges and the reduction of the number of candidates for the Entrance Examination, high education will, it says, have ceased to be an institution of the land and will have become the privilege of the few.

1005. The *Indian Nation* says that it had long been apprehending the changes contemplated by the Universities Commission and is so used to dangers that no prospect, however serious, gives it a shock of surprise.

A blow dealt to high education and to legal education will, it says, be the crowning disaster, but one entirely in keeping with the recent traditions of Government.

INDIAN NATION,
14th July 1902.

Ibid.

BENGALIEE,
16th July 1902.

1006. Contrasting the cheapness of education in Scotland which has stimulated the progress of Scotchmen, and contributed to their unique success among the nations of the earth, with the recommendation of the Universities Commission in India, to make education more costly than ever among a people whose poverty is the theme of the most serious Government concern, the *Bengalee* says that a "more illogical, a more preposterous piece of advice has never been offered to a responsible Government by a body of men charged with a high commission."

Ibid.

1007. Reverting to the "dismal tale which it is its duty to tell," viz., the recommendations of the Universities Commission, the *Bengalee* animadvertes upon the proposal that the school and college departments must not be in the same building nor must they be under the same management. This, it says, will have the effect of closing all such schools, and is, indeed, reform with a vengeance.

BENGALÉE,
20th July 1902.

1008. The Shillong correspondent of the *Weekly Chronicle* complains of the inefficiency of the office establishment of the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, and the favouritism practised in it in the matter of filling vacancies. He remarks that the present Director is "incapable of reforming it, for he has not the grit to do it as evidenced by his mania for cancelling orders." It is, he adds, a pity that a "strong, considerate and tenacious man is not at the head of the department at the present period."

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
15th July 1902.

1009. Referring to the series of leading articles published by the *Bengalee*, on the subject of the Universities Commission's recommendations, the *Indian Mirror* writes that, although it would prefer to wait till the report of the Commission is published, the picture drawn by its contemporary of the future of higher education in India has filled the whole country with profound alarm, in that it is universally feared that Lord Curzon, with all his professions to the contrary, is no genuine friend of the cause of higher education in India.

BENGALÉE,
18th July 1902.

1010. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* likens Mr. Mondy, the Principal of the Dacca College, who, because "a few naughty students inked three or four chairs," has fined the whole college for the offence, to the incompetent Magistrate who caused innocent people to maintain a punitive police force for the rascalities of a few undetected *badmashes*.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th July 1902.

This, at least, says the *Patrika*, is excusable in an executive officer who has more to do with muscles than brains, but not in the head of an educational institution who teaches logic and morality.

(2) - Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

1011. The *Bengalee* complains that whereas, originally, four Commissioners represented the villages of Garulia and Napara, which constitute the Garulia Municipality and five Commissioners were nominated by the local mills, the village element has gradually been eliminated and now only one Commissioner represents the villages, the rest being gentlemen connected with the mills. Also it is represented that taxes are levied by the Municipality according to the valuation of the holdings and, in some cases, they have been enhanced three or four times. In particular, it draws attention to the high rate of the holding and latrine taxes which are higher than what people in Calcutta pay, and that although nearly 150 applications have been made to the Chairman protesting against the assessments, not a single application has, up to date, been laid before the Appeal Committee and disposed of. The situation, it says, is serious and the rate payers' grievances should be looked into and redressed.

BENGALÉE,
19th July 1902.

1012. The *Hindoo Patriot* remarks that the Government has kept the secret relating to the city improvement scheme "far too well," but that in its opinion the public should be given an opportunity of commenting on it before it goes up to the Secretary of State. Its silence betrays a want of confidence in the Corporation as well as in the people, which has led to great irritation.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
19th July 1902.

1013. The *Bengalee*, referring to the numerous complaints it has received of the interference of the Magistrate-Chairman of the Dacca Municipality, begs His Honour to spare no pains to improve matters.

BENGALÉE,
20th July 1902.

(h)—General.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
12th July 1902.

1014. The *Moslem Chronicle* is thoroughly in accord with the suggestion of Mr. C. W. Whish that the elaborate multiplication of rules to guide the operations of the

Agricultural Banks should be done away with; that the present rate of interest at 9 per cent. should be reduced, and that the operations of the Banks should be extended to such classes as weavers and artisans. But it is decidedly against lending money for social functions and festivities.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
13th July 1902.

1015. *Power and Guardian* is indignant that the Joint-Magistrate of Sirajganj should have compelled two men to take *chira* and *dahi* from the hands of women whom they had treated as out-castes, and insists on the officer being told "in precise and unmistakable terms that questions of Hindu social polity are beyond his province and constitute a sacred preserve where his poaching will not be tolerated for a minute."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
15th July 1902.

1016. Referring to the closing of the temple in Puri on the occasion of the *Rath Jatra* festival, the *Hindoo Patriot* describes the sufferings entailed on the five hundred thousand pilgrims assembled who were deprived of the *Mohaprasad* obtainable from the temple, which is the only food they are permitted to partake of during the pilgrimage. That such physical suffering, spiritual despair and police goading did not lead to riots, which no police or military could check is a matter for thankfulness. The scene is such as the *Patriot* should have liked Dr. Weldon to have witnessed. It would have cooled his proselytising zeal.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
18th July 1902.

1017. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—
The following disquieting news comes from Puri:—

PURI,
The 16th July 1902.

A warrant of arrest with a bail of Rs. 1,000 was issued against the Rajah of Puri, for his non-attendance before the Magistrate on the 14th instant, to produce evidence supporting his telegram to the Local Government and the Divisional Commissioner against the Magistrate's order stopping the ascension of Jagannath to the Car on the *Rath Jatra* night. The Police Inspector arrested the Rajah yesterday in the zenana mahal. The Rajah was released on bail. Magistrate examined the Rajah in Court yesterday and discharged him. The Magistrate's proceedings have caused the greatest alarm and excitement. This has also wounded Hindu religious feelings, as the Rajah of Puri is looked upon as "moving Bishnu."

Needless to say that the telegram will produce the greatest sensation possible among the Hindus in all parts of India.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
23rd July 1902.

1018. In connection with the arrest of the Raja, the same paper enquires whether there is any truth in the allegations that the doors of the Raja's zenana were broken open

and the Raja himself abused.

From the nature of the information communicated by its special reporter, the *Patrika* thinks that serious consequences are likely to ensue from the high-handedness of the local authorities.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
15th July 1902.

1019. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* regrets to notice a revival of anti-Hindu feeling in different parts of India, such as it says existed in the time of Lords Lansdowne

and Elgin, and in support of its statement refers to the stoppage of the Car festival by the officials in Puri; the stoppage of music near mosques during the *Rath Jatra* festival at Ghazipur; the defilement of the temple at Benares the wholesale transfer of Hindu officials from Ballia and the appointment of Muhammadans in their places; and, finally, the appointment of Muhammadans as Naib Tahsildars and Tahsildars by the Board of Revenue of the United Provinces far in excess of their share.

1020. The Habiganj correspondent of the *Weekly Chronicle* complains that the Sub-Registrar of Habiganj exceeds his orders and insists upon the attendance at his office of women arriving in boats for the purpose of registering documents. There being an order exempting these persons from attendance and requiring their examination in their boats, the correspondent hopes the attention of the authorities will be drawn to the breach of the rule on the Sub-Registrar's part.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
15th July 1902.

1021. While congratulating the planting community of Assam on their attitude towards the excise system as worked in Assam, the *Weekly Chronicle* nevertheless blames the planters, many of whom are themselves owners of grog-shops, for encouraging the taste for strong drinks among their coolies. At the same time it complains that as it is at present worked, there is far too little supervision of the excise shops and a disposition of the authorities to applaud those officers who have done their best in increasing revenue—a position which is hardly consistent with the professed anxiety of Government for the moral welfare of the people. As so important a body as the tea-planters of Assam have taken up the cudgels, the *Chronicle* hopes that Government will spare no pains to remove the evils complained of.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
15th July 1902.

1022. The *Weekly Chronicle* draws attention to the mistake made in the Assam Civil List of showing the names of Honorary Magistrates in four out of the five subdivisions of Sylhet, who have either been removed by order of Government or have rendered themselves liable to removal owing to their continued absence. These latter, it urges, ought to be removed from their position. Others, too, are recommended for removal on account of their lack of education and whose private lives do not inspire the public with confidence.

WEEKLY CHRONICLE,
15th July 1902.

1023. The *Hindoo Patriot* invites the Viceroy's attention to the Resolution issued by the Bombay Government on the question of the remission of land revenue in that Presidency, which is diametrically opposed to the spirit of the declarations of the Viceroy himself, and the Home and Finance Members made at the last Budget Debate—that all famine arrear revenue, either recoverable or not recoverable, was to be remitted.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
17th July 1902.

It exhorts His Excellency to bring pressure to bear upon the Bombay Government to carry loyally into effect the behests of his Government.

1024. The *Bengalee* advocates the claim of the gardeners of His Excellency the Viceroy's Park at Barrackpore to a pension which their predecessors have enjoyed, instead of being granted an honorarium, and hopes that His Excellency will take the case of the men into his merciful consideration. At least, it asks, that the rule might not be enforced in the case of men who took up service before it was passed.

BENGALIEE,
22nd July 1902.

1025. The *Bengalee* condemns as un-English the action of the Magistrate of Backergunge in stopping local Government offices from giving any printing work to the *Hitaishi* Press and the *Bikash* Press, two out of the five presses in Barisal, and calls His Honor's attention to the order of the Magistrate.

BENGALIEE,
22nd July 1902.

1026. The *Hindoo Patriot* enumerates the following measures which call for reform, and cites the opinion of the National Congress leaders, His Excellency the Viceroy and his His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the importance of improving the Police:—

HINDOO PATRIOT,
23rd July 1902.

- (1) Reform of the Police;
- (2) Separation of the judicial from executive functions;
- (3) Reconstruction of the Legislative Councils on a more liberal and extended scale for allowing a voice to the elective element;
- (4) Wider employment of the natives of India in the public service on a footing of equality with British-born subjects as regards their pay and prospects;
- (5) Endowment of a permanent fund for mitigation and prevention of famine;

- (6) Official support for development of the ancient arts and industries of India;
- (7) Abolition of that unpopular and universally condemned impost, *i.e.*, the income-tax;
- (8) Holding of the Civil Service examinations in England and India at the same time;
- (9) Substantial reduction of Home and Military charges;
- (10) Necessary reduction of Court-fee stamps;
- (11) Improvement of high education;
- (12) Widespread diffusion of mass education;
- (13) Improvement of scientific education and training;
- (14) Improvement of technical education;
- (15) Agricultural improvements;
- (16) Lightening of the public burdens;
- (17) Miscellaneous projects.

INDIAN MIRROR,
23rd July 1902.

1027. From the speech of the Managing Director of the "India Development Company, Limited, England," which is quoted, the *Indian Mirror* says that virtually the Government of India has become a Company Promoter in this particular business, which has for its object the helping of Bihar planters and the Indian Government professedly and the shareholders of course primarily.

INDIAN MIRROR,
24th July 1902.

10 8. The following comments on Lord Curzon appear in a leader in the *Indian Mirror*:—We have nothing to urge against Lord Curzon himself personally. "By your acts will you be known." We are grieved to say that Lord Curzon's acts have been mostly in the nature of abortive or mischievous Commissions and Committees in one direction, and interminable tours, and pageantry, processions and firing of salutes, which he himself deprecated at the threshold of his administration, in another. He said then, that 'the salvation of India is his duty.' The conception was correct enough, but the execution has been almost always wrong and misdirected. Were Lord Curzon a less clever man, he would be less self-opinionated. He should then not send Commissions and Committees flying about the country—not to collect and digest independent non-official opinion, but to merely carry out a certain programme which he had already thought out in his own mind to achieve a certain end in a particular manner. Lord Curzon will brook no contradiction and no denial. He must have servants obedient to his will, and the Great Mogul himself could not have been more slavishly served. Take the two latest Commissions. The Universities' Commission had certain definite instructions issued to them, and beyond them they could not go. And it is very likely to happen that educational retrogression, instead of educational progress, will ensue. Again the Police Commission cannot take up Police abuses, such as have all but shattered the belief in the purity of the Police administration. Of one thing we feel almost certain, that posterity will know the Viceroy as "Commission Curzon."

BEHAR HERALD,
23rd July 1902.

1029. The *Behar Herald* inveighs against the practice of administering corporal punishment either to adults or children, averring that the system of flogging has not proved successful.

"Can," it asks, "the wisest course of weaning people from brutality be to commence their punishment by a manner of treatment which involves at the same time moral humiliation and physical torture? Absurd!"

BENGAL LEE,
25th July 1902.

1030. The *Bengalee* draws the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the status to which the junior assistants in the Bengal Secretariat have been reduced by the abolition of the graded system in those offices, and by the grant of extension of service to men who have completed 55 years of age and are therefore required by the rules to retire.

A spirit of discontent, it says, at present prevails in the lower ranks of the clerical staff, and it is no wonder that this should be the case, inasmuch as some of the assistants have got no promotion at all for the last 10 or 12 years.

Under these circumstances the grant of extension after extension to men who have earned their pension is to deal a death-blow to the prospects of the junior clerks.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

1031. The following is taken from the *Indian Empire*:—

The treatment of Indian Princes.

Our readers are aware that a party was given in London by the London Indian Society in honour of the Coronation. The Indian Princes at present residing in London were invited to grace the function with their presence. But unfortunately those Indian Chiefs did not join the party at all. The cause of this absence must be highly regretted, if any reliance is to be placed upon the statement appearing in the columns of *India*. Our contemporary says that a quasi-official hint had been conveyed to the Indian Princes and Chiefs to the effect that their absence "would be more palatable to the India Office and more conducive to their interests than their presence." In other words, official pressure was brought to bear upon these Princes to hold themselves aloof from a gathering where educated Indian gentlemen under the presidency of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji met. If *India* has been correctly informed, we do not find words sufficiently strong to condemn the action of the India Office authorities. The entire absence of the Indian Princes from the party given in their honour by the London Indian Society, no doubt in a manner confirms the statement published above. The lot of the Indian Princes is sad in the extreme. Why make it sadder by placing humiliating and insulting checks upon their movements?

INDIAN EMPIRE,
22nd July 1902.

1032. The *Indian Mirror* has the following:—

European traders and Native Chiefs.

Certain ruling Chiefs in India are in a state of chronic indebtedness. Why should that be so? Plague and famine will not account for the indebtedness, neither will low tastes and riotous living. There are several other contributory causes. One of them is notorious. Many years ago, a strange tale was revealed of the repudiation by a great Chief of a great debt for the alleged sale to him of a great jewel. The matter formed the subject of a sensational criminal trial in a certain High Court. Quite recently there was a Civil Court trial in which the names of two other Chiefs figured prominently. We only care to ask a very little question—cannot European traders, itinerant and others, be prevented from paying visits to Rajahs and Maharajahs?

INDIAN MIRROR,
23rd July 1902.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

1033. The following paragraph appears in *Power and Guardian*:—

The Landlord and tenant in Pabna.

The reader cannot have forgotten the triumphal progress of the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division through the district of Pabna and the attitude he took up in respect of the raiyats. We feared at the time that the illiterate masses would not realise their true position but would assume a defiant attitude towards the zamindars. What we feared has come to pass. The Criminal Courts find themselves suddenly face to face with a plentiful crop of frivolous cases, too heavy to cope with them; the raiyats are withholding rents on this pretext and that; the zamindars are being harassed and humiliated in every conceivable manner; and litigation is increasing with railway speed. We believe the Government will have, by this time, found out their mistake.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
13th July 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1034. The *Indian Nation* "regards the recent little ebullitions of Mahratta

Mahratta loyalty.

feeling in a corner here and a corner there as probably occasioned by some of the teachings of a book published a few months ago on this side of the country." That they represent no abiding or universal sentiment will appear from the attitude of the leader of the Mahrattas, Maharaja Scindia, whose speech (which the *Nation* quotes) at the Royal Asiatic Society's Coronation Banquet gave expression to sentiments very different from journalistic discontent.

INDIAN NATION,
14th July 1902.

BEHAR HERALD,
23rd July 1902.

1035. Referring to the success that attended the celebration of the Sivaji festival in Calcutta which showed "how the tremor of awakening national life is slowly but surely

The Sivaji festival. pulsating through the people and welding Indians of conflicting castes and creeds into a homogeneous whole," the *Behar Herald* offers the following suggestion:—

We very much wish that our countrymen could make out a list of our great men and hold commemoration meetings every year throughout the land. The value of such solemn gatherings can hardly be overestimated. England is great because she remembers and worships her great men. Let Indians too do the same if they really wish to rise high in the scale of nations. Hero-worship affords a common ground where all may meet and shake hands in sympathy and fellowship. It is the best harmoniser of discordant elements—far better than many of our vaunted political associations.

INDIAN NATION,
14th July 1902.

1036. The following paragraph is taken from the *Indian Nation*:—

An incident in Calcutta during the *Rath Jatra*.

The local incident which a contemporary describes under the heading "Alleged High-handedness" has a moral. A European or Eurasian interfered with the pulling of a Jagannath car on the day of the *Rath Jatra*, dispersed the crowd, committed sacrilege by kicking at the car and having it removed by some Muhammadans, and committed assault and battery right and left on a number of persons who had done nothing to provoke him. What hope is there, what hope ever was there, of a people amongst whom a single white-skinned individual can thus treat a large number of men with impunity? Were these the men to be redeemed into freedom even by Mahratta valour? We wonder why our contemporary calls this unknown person, whose acts were ruffianly and criminal, "a Eurasian gentleman." One little fact our contemporary is not apprised of. It was a Muhammadan who, alone and unaided, out-bullied the breaker of the public peace, answered threat with threat and compelled him to retire. Then the Bengalees and Uriyas began to talk big and even to be humorous. Without the help of that plucky follower of Islam, the Hindus might have fared even worse. If it is true that 8 or 12 chaprasis from District Office No. 2 acted under the orders of the European, it should not be difficult to trace him and bring him to book. The chaprasis themselves have an account to render.

INDIAN NATION,
14th July 1902.

1037. The *Indian Nation* comments as follows on the proposal to make India pay for the Coronation Reception at the India Office:—

India and the Coronation Reception at the India Office.

The utter absence of justice and generosity from the arrangement is made all the more glaring by a certain contrast. India has to pay not only the cost of the reception, but the expenses of the Indian guests, that is, their travelling expenses and hotel bills. England, however, will bear the expenses of the colonial guests. The distinction appears to us indefensible. "I am to invite and you are to pay" is a principle unfair enough in all conscience, and we have not even the melancholy satisfaction of being favoured with that justice which consists in an equality of unfairness to all. Fairness is specially reserved for the colonies; that is all the more woe to us. India was ready to fight in South Africa. If the offer was refused, she should be taken to have rendered the same service as any country whose assistance was accepted.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th July 1902.

1038. Every Englishman, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, approved of

The Coronation and England's Indian guests.

India's invitation to the Coronation, but not all of them from the same motive. It is certain that there were some who sought to strengthen the bonds of friendship, but the majority wanted to impress Indians with their power and greatness. Of this, the India Office entertainment affords ample proof. Then again, the journal continues, India alone has had to pay the expenses connected with the entertainment of her celebrities. Under such humiliating circumstances, asks the *Patrika*, would any Indian have cared to attend the Coronation of King Edward VII?

INDIAN EMPIRE,
22nd July 1902.

1039. The *Indian Empire*, quoting Mr. Fawcett, says that England's behaviour towards India in the matter of saddling her with the cost of the Coronation Reception at

Ibid.

the India Office, is the "master-piece of meanness." Perhaps, it says, it may be argued that there is no meanness in doing the meanest of acts towards a people who, in Lord George Hamilton's opinion, are savage and voiceless, helpless serfs.

1040. With reference to the payment by India of the cost of entertaining the Indian Chiefs at the India Office, the

A significant suggestion.

Bengalee draws attention to the letter of "Anglo-Indian" in the *Madras Mail*, suggesting that, sooner than have the charge made upon India, every Englishman now in this country or at home, who has during his stay in India received hospitality from native rulers or wealthy citizens, for which he has been unable to make any sort of return, should subscribe to a fund for the purpose of bearing some part of the cost of the Coronation expenditure and so save his *amour propre*.

BENGALÉE,
23rd July 1902.

1041. Adverting to the postponement of the Parliamentary debate on the Indian budget till the autumn, the *Bengalee* says that the discussion having hitherto been more or less a farce, it matters little to India whether it comes off in the summer session or in the autumn session or does not come off at all.

The Indian Budget in Parliament.

1042. The *Bengalee* writes that the verdict of accidental death of the Coroner's Jury in the case of Babu Monmotha

The recent tramway accident.

Dhar De, who was run over by an electric car, has not given public satisfaction, and that, in consequence, a suit will be filed in the High Court against the Tramway Company. The journal's advice to the Company is to settle the matter out of Court.

BENGALÉE,
23rd July 1902.

BENGALÉE,
24th July 1902.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 26th July 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

